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Item 37 of the preliminary list*

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the declaration of the European Council on South Africa, issued on 29 June 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 37 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jan de MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Declaration on South Africa issued on 29 June 1991 by the European Council

The European Council welcomes the important progress made towards the complete and irreversible abolition of apartheid, notably the repeal of the three remaining pillars of apartheid: the land acts, group areas act and population registration act. It hopes that these important measures will be followed by the elimination in practice of all racial discrimination and by an improvement of the position of the most disinherited elements of the South African population.

The European Council would wish to see a speeding up of the process of negotiation on the new constitution leading to the establishment of a new, united, democratic and non-racial South Africa and calls upon all parties to make common efforts to resolve all outstanding questions so as to enable negotiations between all political forces to begin as soon as possible.

The European Council notes, nevertheless, that obstacles remain on this path. It expresses the hope that a rapid solution can be found to the problem of political prisoners and to that of the return of exiles. It reiterates its concern about the violence in South Africa and calls upon the South African Government to spare no effort to uphold the law and public order. It notes with hope the consultations on this grave problem and calls upon all parties to display moderation.

The European Council, conscious of the significant influence of the role which sport might be called on to play in the emergence of a South African nation, notes with satisfaction the progress achieved in desegregation in the sporting field. It hopes that all the conditions set by the International Olympic Committee for the readmission of South Africa will be fulfilled as soon as possible. It proposes, while respecting the independence of sporting organizations, to support the principle of renewing sporting contacts at the international level on a case-by-case basis, where unified and non-racial sporting bodies have been set up.